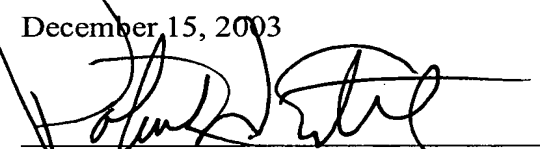




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#5/9

PATENT  
Attorney Docket No. 28655/37222

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

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|----------------------------------|---|--|
| Applicant:                       | ) | I hereby certify that this paper is being  |
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| Examiner: Tam M. Nguyen          | ) | December 15, 2003  |
|                                  | ) |  |
|                                  | ) | Patrick D. Ertel, No. 26,877   |
|                                  | ) | Attorney for Applicant   |

AMENDMENT "A"

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Sir:

This paper is in response to the official action dated August 14, 2003  
(hereafter, "the official action").

The **Amendments to the Specification** section begins on page 2 of this paper.

The **Amendments to the Abstract** section begins on page 7 of this paper.

The **Complete Listing of Claims** begins on page 8 of this paper.

The **Remarks** section begins on page 12 of this paper.